

OVERVIEW OF FACT SHEET

Hazardous waste (HW) may be generated from laboratory operations, facilities operations, construction activities, and a variety of other activities at UNC- Charlotte. Hazardous waste is a particular class of "solid" waste which, if improperly managed, poses a substantial threat or potential hazard to human health and the environment. Typical wastes generated at UNC Charlotte include, but are not limited to: spent solvents, waste laboratory chemicals, and Universal waste (discussed separately in the Universal Waste Handling Fact Sheet due to differing regulatory requirements).



In accordance with regulatory requirements, UNC Charlotte maintains a Hazardous Waste Contingency Plan. This Plan is designed to prevent and to minimize hazards to the public or to the environment from fires, explosions, spills or other unplanned releases of hazardous waste. EPA regulations also require generators to comply with emergency preparedness and prevention requirements.

If you have any questions regarding Hazardous Waste, please contact your supervisor and/or the [Environmental Health and Safety Office](#) at 704-687-1111.

Hazardous Waste

- **Waste Identification** – Hazardous Waste (HW) includes substances that are solids, liquids and gases. The EPA definition of includes substances that possess a hazardous characteristic (e.g. toxic, ignitable, corrosive, or reactive with other substances), or substances that are listed by the EPA based on their usage or chemical constituents. Consider all waste chemical formulations a HW unless EHS determines otherwise. Contact EHS for technical assistance at 7-1111.
- **Labeling** – Containers that store HW must be properly and clearly labeled. Labels must include the following:
 - "HAZARDOUS WASTE" wording or appropriate content identifier
 - contents in words not chemical formulas (e.g. "Acetone")
 - amount of each waste constituent in the container
 - name and telephone number of waste generator
 - building & room number where waste is generated or located
 - physical state of the waste (e.g. "solid or liquid")
 - hazard class or category of the waste (e.g. corrosive, flammable, toxic, reactive).
 - a date when the container has become FULL – do not date any containers prior to them becoming full and ready for final disposal.
- **Accumulation and Storage** – EPA regulations have established a two-tiered waste accumulation and storage system: satellite accumulation and central accumulation
- **Satellite Accumulation** – HW accumulation and storage which is at the point of generation and under the control of the person generating the waste is called satellite accumulation. Regulations allow a maximum of 55 gallons of HW or 1 quart of acutely hazardous waste at each satellite accumulation area. Satellite accumulation containers must be closed at all times, except when waste is being added to the container. Containers should be stored in leak-proof tubs or another type of secondary containment within satellite storage areas. These containers should only be dated when full and ready for disposal via the EHS Office or transport to the Chemistry Stockroom main storage area.
- **Central Accumulation** - Main accumulation and storage of HW is subject to strict time limitations. UNC Charlotte is an LQG and as a result, the University is allowed to store hazardous waste on-site for a maximum of 90 days. The UNC Charlotte main accumulation areas are located in the Solvent Storage Building and the Chemistry Department Stockroom.
- **Training** – Persons working with hazardous materials should receive annual training that addresses storage, use, and disposal of hazardous materials, emergency procedures, and other safety topics specific to their workplace. The EHS Office will ensure that EHS hazardous waste personnel and the personnel that handle waste at the central storage areas meet annual hazardous waste training requirements. Those that work at satellite accumulation points, or handle hazardous waste after accumulation, such as transporting waste to a main storage area must receive annual hazardous waste training from a PI, Laboratory Manager, or UNC Charlotte EHS online Hazardous Waste Management Training. Personnel must be thoroughly familiar with waste handling and emergency procedures applicable to their job responsibilities. All records pertaining to employee training must be retained for as long as the employee is employed in a covered job plus an additional three years.